



CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R ' S   R E P O R T .

For the year ended 31st December, 1943.

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With compliments.



August, 1944.

To: The Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is an abbreviated report on the health of the population and the sanitary condition of the district for the year 1943.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	45,948
Population	...	...	...	...	13,210
Number of inhabited houses					3,440
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	56,276
Sum represented by a Penny Rate					£236

Birth Rate.

233 births were registered in the year - 122 males and 111 females. Of these 14 were illegitimate. These are the number of live births. There were 7 still births, of which 6 were illegitimate.

Birth rate 17.64

Death Rate.

153 deaths were registered during the year - 80 males and 73 females. 29 persons died from some form of Cancer, 58 from diseases of the heart or circulatory system, including intra-cranial lesions, 12 from disease of the respiratory system. 10 deaths occurred from Influenza. There was 1 death from Diphtheria and 1 from Puerperal Fever.

Death rate 11.58

Infantile Mortality.

There were 11 deaths of children under 1 year of age.

Rate per 1,000 births 47.21

Infectious Disease.

There has again been a low incidence of Infectious Disease. 16 cases of Scarlatina and 8 of Diphtheria were notified. Measles and Whooping Cough were again epidemic, the numbers notified being 263 and 106 respectively. 43 cases of Pneumonia were notified. 5 deaths only were registered as occurring from this disease, a tribute possibly to the Sulphonamide drugs, and only 1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

Tuberculosis.

26 cases of this disease were notified, 15 being cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 11 of Tuberculosis of Glands, Spine, etc. 5 deaths from the disease were registered. It is again to be noted that during the war years there has been an increase of Tuberculosis.

Water Supply.

The Comprehensive Scheme has proved a success, in

spite of very great unforeseen demands upon it. The exceptionally low rainfall of the past 2 years may, in the near future, cause some anxiety. Results of analysis of samples from public supply continue to prove absolutely satisfactory.

#### Drainage.

The systems at Purton and Cricklade have continued to prove satisfactory. There was some difficulty at Wootton Bassett during the year, owing to the nature of extra effluent with which the system had to cope. This has now been satisfactorily dealt with.

I should like here to bring to the notice of the Council the work of your Engineer and Surveyor. It is largely due to his efficiency and energy and attention that the water supply has proved the success that it is.

#### Milk.

The number of Dairies on the Register is now 328. 330 inspections were carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant.

#### Meat.

The examination of carcasses of animals for human consumption, the slaughter of which is now carried out practically entirely at one Slaughterhouse, continues to be one of the most important duties of your Sanitary Inspectors. Details of this work are fully set out in his report. A total of 248 visits and examinations were made for this purpose. It must be noted, too, that war conditions of the supply of food to the district involve added work, inspections and examinations with regard to other foodstuffs, tinned and otherwise, for sale to the public.

#### Salvage.

The work carried out in this connection continues to be very satisfactory, and adowns to the credit of your Sanitary Inspectors, a total of some £931.10s.10d being received from the sale of refuse and salvage.

I append the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies  
and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

*John N. Watson*

JOHN N. WATSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Council Offices,  
Wootton Bassett, Wilts.

July, 1944.

To.

Dr. J. N. Watson, Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade  
and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year  
ended 31st December, 1943:

Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	nil
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	...	nil

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	49
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(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	194
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(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932				nil
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(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	nil
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(4) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	48
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2. Remedy of defects during the year without service  
of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers				32
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	8
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(b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -				
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(1) By owners				4
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(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil
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(3)



#### 4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	...	...	...	...	nil
Number of visits made	...	...	...	...	3

#### 5. Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1936.

##### Nuisances.

Number of nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	43
" " " abated	...	...	...	...	36
" " inspections made	...	...	...	...	122

##### Verminous Houses.

Number of verminous houses discovered	...	...	...	...	8
" " houses cleared of vermin	...	...	...	...	8
" " visits made	...	...	...	...	26

Three houses were infested with fleas, four with bugs and one with lice.

##### Scabies.

Number of visits made re scabies	...	...	...	...	19
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##### Drainage

Number of inspections made re drainage	...	...	...	...	19
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##### Water supplies.

Number of water samples taken and submitted for analysis:

	<u>Public Supplies.</u>	<u>Private Supplies.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chemical	1	-	1
Bacteriological	6	24	30
	7	24	31

Results of analysis of above samples:

	<u>Unfit for drinking purposes.</u>	<u>FIt for drinking purposes.</u>
<u>Public Supplies</u>		
Chemical		1
Bacteriological		6
<u>Private Supplies</u>		
Bacteriological	17	7

Number of visits made re water supplies	...	...	...	...	...
In connection with public supplies	...	...	...	...	16
" " " private "	...	...	...	...	84

Number of water connections made to houses from a water main as the result of informal notices	...	...	...	...	7
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##### Inspection and supervision of food.

##### Milk

Number of Dairies on Register	...	...	...	...	328
" " inspections	...	...	...	...	330
" " pasteurising plants	...	...	...	...	1
" " samples of Pasteurised Milk taken	...	...	...	...	12

One sample out of the 12 Pasteurised Milk samples taken did not pass the test for adequate pasteurisation. The reason for this failure could not be ascertained. A "follow up" sample was satisfactory and all subsequent samples were very satisfactory.

Structural alterations and improvements were carried out to cowsheds and dairies at 30 registered premises.

### Meat.

The killing (excepting a small number of casualty killings) and dressing of animals for human food are carried out at a slaughterhouse under the control of the Ministry of Food.

Number of visits to and inspections made at the above slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	241
Number of visits made to other premises	...	...	...	...	7.

The carcase and organs of every animal killed in the district for human consumption were examined. In order to obtain this 100% examination, the inspection of meat had to be carried out very frequently between the hours of 6 p.m. and 11 p.m., in fact, during certain months in the year practically all inspections were made between these hours.

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No. of animals killed	-	15,293	6	34	15,333
No. of carcasses inspected	-	15,293	6	34	15,333
No. of carcasses condemned	-	24	1	3	28

### Details and weight of condemned meat.

	Tons cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Veal	11	1	27	
Bacon	2	1	8	
Mutton	2	1	14	
Offal	10	1	26	

1	6	2	19
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Cwts. qrs. lbs.	Percentage of the total of condemned meat.
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Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis	16	0	16	60.53
Condemned for Tuberculosis	10	2	3	39.47

I give below the number of calves killed in the district during the years 1940 to 1943, and the percentage of calves affected with Tuberculosis. Only a small number of animals other than calves has been slaughtered since January 1940.

Year	No. of calves killed	No. of calves affected with Tuberculosis	Percentage of calves affected with Tuberculosis.
1940	14,095	102	0.72
1941	13,588	116	0.85
1942	15,190	104	0.68
1943	15,293	90	0.59

#### Other Food.

The following are the details of tinned and other food condemned during the year.

	<u>Tins</u>
Corned Beef	8
Pork Sausage Meat	1
Pork Luncheon Meat	15
Prem	1
Sandwich Beef	1
Party Loaf	2
Stewed Beef	2
Chopped Ham	3
Beans	15
Peas	10
Carrots	1
Apples	5
Dansons	1
Prunes	2
Plums	5
Fruit Salad	6
Jam	4
Salmon	1
Sardines	30
Herrings	2
Pilchards	15
Evaporated Milk	16
	<u>146</u>
Grape Fruit Pulp	36 gallons
	lbs.
Tomatoes	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes	85
Onions	1122
Bacon	42
Margarine	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>1384</u>

All condemned food suitable for animal feeding stuffs were utilised for that purpose.

No. of visits to food premises	53
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#### Knackers Yards.

The only Knacker's yard in the district was not used at any period of the year.

#### Factories Act.

No. of Factories on Register	60
" " inspections made	13
" " notices served	4
" " " complied with	3



### Infectious Diseases.

No. of rooms disinfected	...	...	17
" " visits made re disinfection and enquiries	...	...	50

### Tents, Vans and Sheds

Thirteen licences to use land as sites for movable dwellings were issued during the year. No nuisances were created on these sites.

No. of visits re tents, vans and sheds	39
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### Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Refuse is deposited at tips in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, scavenging being carried out by direct labour.

Salvageable waste materials are collected from nearly every house in the district, there being two collections per month in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett, and one collection per month in the remainder of the district.

Cost of refuse and salvage collections	£1,337. 0s. 7d
Receipts - refuse and salvage	931. 10s. 10d
Cost of refuse and salvage collection to General Rate Fund ... ..	405. 9s. 9d
Running cost of refuse lorry per mile	6.454d
Miles per gallon ... ..	7.756

### Salvageable Materials

	Collected during the year		sold		Receipts from sales.
	Tons	Cwts.	Tons	Cwts.	£. s. d
Waste paper	77	13	75	3	515. 3. 6
Scrap iron and tins	69	.	55	14	89. 13. 10
Non-ferrous metals	3	.	2	18	38. 6. 4
Textiles	13	5	13	1	179. 4. 7
Rubber	8	.	7	18	19. 1. 6
Bones	10	4	9	14	46. 3. 11
Dry batteries	3	0	1	0	10. 0
	184	2	165	8	888. 3. 8

No. of visits re refuse collection, refuse disposal and salvage ... ..	244
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### Infestation Order 1943. Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

A survey of the district was carried out during August and September to ascertain the extent of rat infestation, so that a report under the above Order could be made to the Ministry of Food. The report shewed that the majority of infestations were of a minor degree.

The refuse tips are periodically baited by a Rat Catcher employed under contract by the Council.

Complaints were received re rat infestation at six premises, and five of these premises were successfully cleared.

No.of visits re rats and mice infestation, including the survey	...	...	...	...	165
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Petroleum Acts.

No.of Licences issued to store petroleum	35
" " " " " " carbide	4
" " " " " " petroleum and carbide	4

Petroleum is stored in underground tanks at all places excepting two.

Miscellaneous Sanitary matters.

No.of miscellaneous sanitary visits	61
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153 visits were made during the year in connection with matters pertaining to A.R.P. and Civil Defence.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

C.E.JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.